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DORKING URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of

THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

1954

—ooOoo—

West Hill House,
West Hill,
EPSOM,
Surrey.

September, 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Dorking Urban District Council

Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit a report for the year 1954 which has been prepared in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 28/54.

The year can rightly be described as a healthy one in the Dorking Urban District for there was no serious epidemic, and the death-rate was one of the lowest yet recorded. The death-rate for tuberculosis equalled the figure for 1951 which was the lowest to be recorded at that time.

A less satisfactory feature was the rise in the number of infant deaths, though most of these were in premature infants or were due to congenital defects.

I am most grateful for the continued support of the Council in matters affecting the improvement of the public health, and to the officers of the Council's staff for their help. The conscientious work of the Senior Sanitary Inspector and his assistants deserves special attention.

I am, Mr, Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CYRUS IVE.

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1954 - 1955

Councillor	Bull
"	Covell
"	Kendall
"	Lacy-Hulbert
"	Pleydell-Bouverie
"	Robinson
"	Todd



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

THE YEAR 1954

SECTION I. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (Acres)	...	...	...	...	....	9,511
Population (Census 1951)	...	...	...	...	...	20,252
Population (Estimated mid-year 1954)		...	...	...	...	20,270
Density (persons per acre)	...	...	...	...	...	2.13
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books at 31st December, 1954		...	...	...	...	5,619
Rateable Value at 31st December, 1954		...	...	...	£	214,645
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£855

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

<u>Live Births</u>	Total	Male	Female	
Total Live Births	274	135	139	Birth rate per
Legitimate "	257	126	131	1,000 population
Illegitimate "	17	9	8	13.5
				Standardised Birth Rate 14.6
<u>Still Births</u>				
Total Still Births	2	-	2	Rate per 1,000
Legitimate "	2	-	2	total live and
Illegitimate "	-	-	-	still births 7.2
				Rate per 1,000 population 0.10
<u>Deaths</u>				
	227	107	120	Crude Death Rate
				11.2
				Standardised death rate 9.3
<u>Deaths of infants under 1 year of age</u>				
Number of deaths	10	8	2	Mortality rate
Legitimate	8	6	2	per 1,000 live
Illegitimate	2	2	-	births 36.4
<u>Deaths of infants under 1 month of age</u>				
Neonatal deaths	6	5	1	Mortality rate
Legitimate	4	3	1	per 1,000 live
Illegitimate	2	2	-	births 21.9
<u>Maternal Mortality</u>				-

Table I enables comparison of this year's vital statistics with those of last year.

Table II shows a comparison of birth, death and infant mortality rates for the district since 1931, with the figures for England and Wales during the same period.

BIRTHS

Live births numbered 274, of which 135 were males and 139 females, representing a birth-rate of 13.5 per 1,000 of the population, compared with the rate of 15.2 for England and Wales.

A comparability factor (1.08) has been supplied by the Registrar-General, allowing for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas, for use when comparing the local rate with those of other districts. If this is applied to the local rate the figure is raised to 14.6.

Two still births were registered during the year, giving a still-birth rate of 0.70 compared with the rate of 15.2 per 1,000 population for England and Wales.

DEATHS

The deaths registered in the area after correction for inward and outward transfers numbered 227, representing a crude death-rate of 11.2 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, compared with the figure of 11.3 for England and Wales. The total included 107 males and 120 females.

A comparability factor (0.83) has been provided by the Registrar General which may be applied to the crude death-rate for use in comparing the local death-rate with those of other areas. The factor makes allowance for the differing age and sex distribution of district populations. Application of the factor to the local rate reduces it from 11.2 to 9.3.

Causes of death are classified in Table III. The average age at death of males was 63.3 years and of females 71.7. The number of deaths occurring in private houses was 133.

INFANT MORTALITY

There was an increase in the number of infants dying under the age of 1 year from 2 deaths in 1953 to 10 in 1954. Four deaths were caused by congenital malformations, and 4 to prematurity, these being conditions in which the underlying factor is obscure and the application of preventative measures not possible. One death was due to accidental asphyxiation of the child in its cot, presenting a tragic reminder of the need for the great care required at all times in the handling of infants.

Six of the deaths were of children under the age of 1 month.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

For the first year since 1950 there were no deaths attributable to maternal causes.

SECTION 2. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratories available to medical practitioners are situated at the East Surrey and St. John's Hospital, Redhill. Examination of specimens in connection with the diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases can be referred to the Public Health Laboratory of the Medical Research Council situated at West Hill House, Epsom.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The public ambulance service is under the control of the Surrey County Council, who have given the following information regarding the use of the service:-

The main ambulance station for the area is the Smallfields Section of the Redhill County Hospital (Telephone Smallfields 271) with a sub-station at Harrowlands, South Terrace, Dorking.

In accidents in the home or elsewhere or in any sudden illness in the streets or public places, any responsible person may call the ambulance to remove the patient (if by telephone use the local Emergency Calling System). Normal maternity cases will be removed if the applicant can give evidence that a maternity bed has been booked. Maternity cases with serious complications, or where the birth is imminent, will not normally be moved without the authority of a doctor or certified midwife who should travel with the patient in the ambulance. The removal of other cases of illness or accident will be arranged by the hospital concerned or by the medical practitioner in charge of the patient. For private removals a written request accompanied by a doctor's certificate should be made to the County Medical Officer for his consideration. Provided that these requirements are fulfilled, no charge will be made to users.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Care of Mothers, Young Children, etc.

The provision of services relating to the care of mothers and young children, midwifery, health visiting, home nursing, ambulance and domestic help are the responsibility of the Surrey County Council as local health authority. Day-to-day administration has been delegated to the Southern Division Health Sub-Committee and its officers, with headquarters at Caberfeigh, Hatchlands Road, Redhill, (Telephone No. Redhill 3206).

IMMUNISATION AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough and vaccinations against smallpox can be obtained from medical practitioners under the terms of the National Health Service Act, or on application at the County Council Health Centres. Figures relating to the numbers treated will be found in Section 6 of this Report.

FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION CLINIC

A branch of the Family Planning Association is active in the district. It provides a weekly clinic at the Redhill County Hospital with the consent of the Hospital Management Committee and the Medical Superintendent. The medical staff is appointed by the Association and is assisted by voluntary workers. The work of the Association is concerned with the teaching of contraception to married persons, and also with the investigation of sub-fertility.

Enquiries concerning appointments should be made to Mrs. Ryan, Little Abbots, Betchworth, (Telephone Dawes Green 234).

A time-table of clinics available is set out below:-

Ante-natal Clinic	Dorking General Hospital	Fridays 9.30 a.m.
Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics	S.C.C. Clinic, Dene St., Dorking Brockham Homes, Brockham (Voluntary) The Reading Room, Westcott The Brodie Hall, Box Hill Village Hall, N. Holmwood	Mons. & Weds. 2 - 4 p.m. 1st & 3rd Fri. 2 p.m. 2nd & 4th Mons. 2 p.m. Weds. 2 p.m. 2nd & 4th Weds. 2 p.m. 1st & 3rd Thurs. 2 p.m.
General School Medical Minor Ailments Clinic	S.C.C. Clinic, Dene St., Dorking	Tues. 9.30 a.m. - 12 noon Mons. 9.30 a.m.
Dental Clinic	"	By Appointment
Eye Clinic	"	By Appointment
Chest Clinic	"	Fri. 10 a.m.
Family Planning Association Clinic	Redhill County Hospital	Tues. 6 - 7.30 p.m.
Venereal Diseases Clinics	Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford	Males:- Tues. & Fri. 5-7 p.m. Females:- Mons. 2-7 p.m. Thurs. 9.30-11 a.m.
	Redhill County Hospital Earlswood Common	Males:- Mons. 5-7 p.m.

(And at the Out-patient Departments of many London Hospitals)

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

Section 47 of this Act gave power to local authorities to take steps to deal with persons suffering from chronic illness or infirmity, who for one reason or another are not receiving proper care and attention, and who are unable to manage for themselves. As might be expected, the majority of these are old people who, in addition to physical illness, have some loss of mental power sufficient to curtail their reasoning powers, but not serious enough to require their admission to hospitals for mental illness. There is a tendency for some of these old people to cut themselves off from relatives and friends and to refuse all help, and

National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951 (cont.)

the conditions in which they live may reach a deplorable state of neglect before it is realised by relatives or neighbours that the matter should be reported to the Medical Officer of Health or to the Welfare Officer. Removal to hospital or other institution may then be a matter of some urgency to safeguard the invalid's life and to permit the removal of filth and rubbish from the existing accommodation.

Under the 1948 Act, power was given to the local authority to apply to the Magistrates Court for an Order to obtain the compulsory removal, for a period not exceeding three months, of a person found in such conditions. As the result of experience, it was found that the time taken to comply with the legal requirements of the Act in obtaining an Order for compulsory removal was so long that the practical value of the powers given by the Act to local authorities was curtailed. An amending Act which came into force in 1951 enables authorities to adopt a more expeditious procedure in cases requiring urgent attention.

No action was taken under this section during the year.

SECTION 3.SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREAWATER

The district's supply is provided by two companies, Mickleham, Boxhill and Brockham by the East Surrey Water Company, and the remainder of the area by the Dorking Water Company.

The bulk of the water supplied by the East Surrey Water Company is obtained from borings into chalk at Purley, Kenley and Leatherhead. Before distribution it is softened by the addition of lime and dechlorinated after an adequate period of contact. The methods of purification in use are adequate to deal with any possible pollution which might occur.

The Dorking Water Company obtains its water from a series of fifteen wells situated a little to the south of the Pippbrook stream shortly before it reaches the western outskirts of Dorking. The boreholes extend to a depth of 130 feet into the Folkestone beds, from which the water is siphoned to a reservoir at the works. After chlorination it is pumped into covered service reservoirs.

The district is fortunate in the quality and adequacy of its water supplies.

Reports on 6 samples of the Dorking Water Company's supply were received, all of which were satisfactory.

The system of weekly sampling in rotation by the various local authorities served by the East Surrey Water Company has continued.

As will be seen by the following figures, the great majority of houses are provided with a piped water supply delivered internally:-

Dwelling-houses supplied by wells	3
" " " standpipes	21
" " " piped main supply	5,594
" " " piped private supply	3
" " " other means	3

As in previous years, additional standpipes on main supplies have been installed at camp sites where caravans and temporary structures are being permanently occupied.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The weekly collection of house refuse throughout the district is now well established. Any nuisance which arises from house refuse now is usually due to the small number of householders who fail to realise their responsibilities in this matter and who put wet or putrescible matter in dustbins, especially in the warmest part of the year when they dispense with fires. The results can be most unpleasant, both for neighbours and for the refuse collectors. Sliny, smelling bins, with their crop of fly maggots, can be avoided by ensuring that only dry refuse is placed there unwrapped, and that if there is no other way of disposing of vegetable, meat and fish wastes these should first be well wrapped in newspaper.

The controlled tipping arrangements continued to give satisfactory results. Routine day by day treatment of the working face before covering prevented the establishment of fly or insect infestations, and the very few

Public Cleansing (cont.)

minor rat infestations which occurred were quickly eliminated.

The weight of house refuse from the urban area deposited at the tip amounted to 5,853 tons 13 cwts. Trade refuse was 299 tons 12 cwts. The arrangements for trade refuse is that traders can deposit their refuse on payment of a small charge, except in the case of putrescible matter from food premises, which is accepted free in the interests of public health to prevent accumulations which might give rise to flies or other pests on the trade premises concerned. On arrival at the tip, such refuse is deposited at the foot of the "working face" and then covered. No collection of trade refuse is made by the Council.

Refuse accepted from adjacent parts of the Dorking and Horley Rural District totalled 638 tons 17 cwts. 2 qtrs. an appropriate charge being made.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Some progress was made during the year in connection with the Main Drainage Scheme in that following an investigation in January by an Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, approval of the Scheme in principle at an estimated cost of £104,000 was received in March, together with a statement that the Minister was prepared to submit the advanced Scheme, estimated to cost £68,000, to the Regional Building Committee for the award of a starting date. Further details were requested in respect of certain items, and these, on being supplied, satisfied the Minister.

The ultimate benefit to be derived, when the whole project is completed, will be the provision of a new length at North Holmwood, to replace the existing old and overloaded sewer which has not to contend with the additional flow from the housing development at Goodwyns Estate; the elimination of the Brockham Works which has for so long created intermittent nuisance; the provision of a new length to bring the sewage flow from Brockham to the Pixham Works, and the necessary alterations at the latter.

An essential part of the work - a new pumping station in Pixham Lane - was in hand by the end of the year. In addition, the temporary works at the old Holmwood Sewage Works, suggested, as mentioned in my last Report, by the Engineer and Surveyor, were completed and in operation by late May.

At present, therefore, sewage disposal is as previously reported, with the exception that the settling tanks now in use at the Holmwood Works help to reduce the amount of sludge which would otherwise have to be dealt with at Brockham.

With regard to the proposed laying of a sewer from a point on Box Hill to a tank near the foot of the hill, the Ministry's Inspector also dealt with this proposal during his investigations, and as a result reported favourably to the Ministry. Further progress in this scheme, however, depends largely upon the co-operation of the Box Hill Management Committee, who, quite naturally, wish to safeguard residents on the Hill, and visitors to it, from the possibility of nuisance from smell. An agreement to cover the wishes of the Management Committee and of the Council was under discussion throughout the year.

CAMP SITES AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Sites in respect of which licences were issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, authorising their use for moveable dwellings, numbered 13.

In addition, licences to erect or station and use a moveable dwelling were issued in respect of 10 such dwellings, situated on pieces of land other than licensed sites.

There are approximately 190 caravans permanently occupied, the majority of which are in the camp sites on Box Hill Road.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

During the year, 90 inspections of shops were made. The conditions found and action taken are shown in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report, which also contains details of the record of all shops in the district.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

Four privately owned open air swimming pools were open to the public during the summer months. The Sanitary Inspectors made 65 visits.

Three of the pools are now fitted with automatic chlorinating plants. In the case of the fourth, the smallest and least used, chlorination is still effected by the addition of Chloros to the water in the pool.

In all, 51 samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination.

The summary of results is as follows:-

<u>Taken</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Reasonably Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
51	44	6	1

The unsatisfactory report was on a sample taken after the installation of a new chlorinating plant, but after the dosage rate had been re-set, no further trouble arose.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action was necessary during the year.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

The number of premises registered under the above Act is two, no fresh applications having been received during the year.

SCHOOLS

Action in connection with schools was limited mainly to treatments for the prevention of flies and other insect and rodent pests in school canteens and kitchens, in accordance with arrangements made between the Senior Sanitary Inspector and the Surrey County Council Education Department.

After a period of some months, nothing had been done to remedy the conditions in the food store of the canteen at the Dorking County Grammar School, referred to last year. The Public Health Committee instructed the Clerk to write to the Chief Education Officer expressing their concern that no action had been taken, and, as a result, the necessary improvements were carried out during the Christmas Holidays.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

The Council's Rodent Operator also deals with bed-bugs and other insect pests, under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, who gives full details of the year's work.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

(1) Inspections for purposes of Provisions as to health, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	26	10	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	100	65	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	4	4	-	-
TOTAL	130	79	-	-

Inspection of Factories (cont.)

(2) Cases in which defects were found:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found					Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	2	-	4	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	4	2	-	4	-	

(3) The factories in the register are classified as follows:-

	Power	Non-Power
Aerated Water	1	-
Agricultural Engineers	1	-
Bacon Curing, Coffee Grinding, etc.	1	-
Bakehouses	8	1
Boot Repairs	9	2
Brickmaking	1	-
Builders, Engineering and Joinery	5	1
Cable Making	1	-
Cabinet Repairs	-	1
Cleaning and Pressing	3	-
Coach Building	2	-
Cocker and Meter Repairs	1	-
Cork Processing	1	-
Crumpets	1	-
Dispensing Optician	-	1
Electricity Generating Station	1	-
Engineering (General)	7	-
Firewood Merchants	1	-
Fish Curing	-	1
Fish Food Manufacturers	-	1
Flour Mills	1	-
Flushing Appliances	1	-
Furniture Repairers	-	1
Furriers	1	-
Gas Works	1	-
Hairdressing Requisites	1	-
Ice-cream and Confectionery	1	-
Lampshades, etc.	1	-
Laundries	2	-

Inspection of Factories (cont.)

	<u>Power</u>	<u>Non-Power</u>
Leaded windows	-	1
Monumental Masons	-	1
Motor Vehicle Repair	13	1
Newspaper Fudging	1	-
Paper Baling	1	-
Plumbing	-	1
Printing	3	-
Provender Mills	2	-
Radio Engineers	3	2
Reinforced Concrete Products	1	-
Sausage Manufacturers	10	7
Sheet Metal	1	-
Tailoring	3	3
Tent Making	1	-
Ticket Printing	1	-
Timber and Fencing	1	-
Toolmaking	1	-
Upholsterers, etc.	2	1
Watch Repairs	2	-
Wire Processing	1	-

The names and addresses of five out-workers in the wearing apparel trade were notified, two from other authorities, three from a local firm.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Full details of premises visited, defects or nuisance discovered and the action taken under the appropriate legal provisions will be found in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, with the results obtained.

SECTION 4.HOUSING

The year's statistics in connection with housing are set out below.

The 7 dwelling-houses stated to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation consist of six flats at Woodhurst, Tower Hill and one hut on a caravan site in Ashurst Drive.

I. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:

1.	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	94
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	228
2.	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	18
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	33
3.	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	7
4.	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	71

II. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	43
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III. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

A.	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
	(a) by owners	Nil
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owner	Nil
B.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	10

Housing (cont.)

B. (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(a) by owners	8
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owner under Section 11, and still in force	1

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	6
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which the Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

IV. Housing Act, 1936 - Overcrowding:

As in previous years the figures of new cases of overcrowding are obtained from the Sanitary Inspectors' visits to housing applicants. 321 of these visits were made during the course of the year.

Cases found during the last nine years may be summarised as follows:-

	Part houses, rooms etc., during 1946/53	Whole houses during	
		1946/53	1954
Overcrowded by $\frac{1}{2}$ unit	354	61	60
" " 1 "	179	33	58
" " $1\frac{1}{2}$ units	90	18	19
" " 2 "	29	7	20
" " $2\frac{1}{2}$ "	7	-	12
" " 3 "	2	-	5
" " $3\frac{1}{2}$ "	2	-	3
" " 4 "	1	-	1
" " 5 "	-	-	-
" " $5\frac{1}{2}$ "	-	-	1
" " 6 "	-	-	1
	664	119	181
			42

Housing (cont.)

The number of cases of overcrowding abated by re-housing of applicants, either by the Council or by their own efforts, may be summarised as follows:-

	Part Houses, rooms Etc., during 1946/53		Whole Houses during 1946/53 1954	
	1954		1946/53	1954
Overcrowding -				
abated by $\frac{1}{2}$ unit	180	8	16	3
" 1 "	98	9	17	1
" $1\frac{1}{2}$ units	48	4	4	2
" 2 "	18	1	7	2
" $2\frac{1}{2}$ "	4	2	2	-
" 3 "	2	-	2	-
" $3\frac{1}{2}$ "	4	-	1	-
" 6 "	-	-	1	-
	354	24	50	8

REHOUSING

Progress improved during the year as the houses on the new estate at Westcott became available. The Council's estates now comprises 737 houses and flats, and four shops with flats over.

Fifty-nine houses were built by private enterprise, and 3 other units were made available by the conversion of large empty houses.

At the end of the year 43 families were still housed in premises requisitioned and converted by the Council. Of the 4 ex-arry huts formerly reported, 3 were still occupied, the other having been demolished after the re-housing of the occupants.

SECTION 5.INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODMILK

One change which occurred during the year was that the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No.2) Order, 1954, which provides for the specification under the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, of certain areas as specified areas in which milk of "special designations" only may be sold by retail, came into operation in the District as from 1st October, 1954. The milk sold may be pasteurised, sterilised or tuberculin tested.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector continued to act as the agent of the County Medical Officer for the purpose of inspection, supervision and sampling at the pasteurising plant which is established in the district.

In addition, routine sampling was carried out of pasteurised milk which is available from four sources outside the Urban District.

Full details of this aspect of the Department's work are given later by the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. ICE-CREAM AND FOOD HYGIENE

The results of inspections of food premises, action taken, and progress achieved are dealt with in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD

The Surrey County Council continued to administer the sections of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 dealing with the adulteration of food. I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for the information that a total of 84 samples for analysis were taken in this district. These included 56 samples of milk, 6 of iced lolly and 22 of miscellaneous articles of foodstuffs and drugs. One sample of sugar and one of a chemical food did not comply with requirements. The information was also given that within the area of the County in which the County Council acts as Food and Drugs authority a total of 1,504 samples were taken for analysis including 1,206 of milk. Seventy-eight samples were found to be below standard, 53 of these being of milk. Successful legal proceedings were taken against a dairy farmer for selling 3 samples of milk containing added water.

SECTION 6. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Table IV shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during 1954 subdivided according to age and sex, with the incidence rate per 1,000 population for each disease.

SMALLPOX

No case of smallpox was notified during the year.

Vaccination against Smallpox

During the year notifications were received from medical practitioners of 126 primary vaccinations, and 33 re-vaccinations which had been performed by them. Two vaccinations only were performed at County Council Health Centres.

Of the primary vaccinations 111 related to children under the age of one year, equivalent to 40.5% of the number of births registered in the district during the year. The comparative figure for 1954 was 36%.

SCARLET FEVER

Fifteen cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year, compared with 7 in the previous year. The incidence rate per 1,000 population was 1.48.

DIPHTHERIA

For the seventh consecutive year no case of diphtheria was notified in the district.

Diphtheria Immunisation

The aim is for every child to receive a primary treatment in its first year of life with reinforcing treatments every 3 to 4 years up to the end of school life. It is not claimed even with such treatment that absolute immunisation will be attained by every child, but there is clear evidence that the risk of an untreated child contracting diphtheria is four times as great as that of an immunised child and that the risk of death is nearly thirty times as great.

Treatment can be obtained from general practitioners under the terms of the National Health Service Act, or from clinics arranged by the local health authority, these being held at regular intervals at all Infant Welfare Centres serving the district, of which details are set out on page 6. These arrangements are intended primarily for infants and others under school age. Clinics in schools are arranged as required by the Divisional Medical Officer for pupils requiring treatment.

Notifications were received that 202 children received primary treatment and that 462 received reinforcing doses. Possibly some children may have been treated privately or in other districts, about whom

Diphtheria Immunisation (cont.)

information has not been received. The following figures show how the facilities for treatment have been used.

	<u>Primary Treatment</u>	<u>Reinforcing Doses</u>
Treated at Clinics and Schools	107	421
Treated by General Practitioners	95	41
	202	462

In the case of 89 infants the treatment was completed before reaching the age of one year.

At the end of the year it was estimated that 56.4% of children under the age of 15 years had been treated and were still in an effective state of immunity. The comparable figure for 1953 was 60%.

With the materials now available it is possible to combine diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus immunisation in one series of injections.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS

One case was notified during the year, this being of the paralytic type.

MEASLES

No case of measles was notified during the year, compared with 143 in 1953.

PUERPERAL PYXEXIA

Eight cases were notified, giving an incidence rate of 29.0 per 1,000 live and still births compared with 25 cases and a rate of 95.1 in 1953. All notifications were received from the maternity unit of the Dorking District Hospital, 4 of them relating to patients who were admitted for their confinements from addresses outside the Urban District.

WHOOPING COUGH

Seventy-nine cases of whooping cough were notified during the year, the incidence rate being 3.90 per 1,000 population compared with 1.34 in 1953. No deaths were registered from the disease.

Whooping Cough Immunisation

Notifications were received from various sources that 143 children had received a primary course and 9 children had received reinforcing doses. The majority received the treatment in combination with immunisation against diphtheria.

TUBERCULOSIS

Six residents were added to the register, all of whom were suffering from disease of the lungs. There were also added the names of 6 persons who moved into this district during the year, having been notified previously elsewhere. Twenty names were removed; these included 8 of persons no longer resident in the district, and 9 of persons considered to have recovered. Three patients died. One of the deaths was caused by a non-tuberculous condition.

At the end of the year 117 names remained on the tuberculosis register, this being 8 less than at the end of 1953. The entries consisted of 92 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis (59 males and 33 females) and 25 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis (10 males and 15 females).

Two deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis were assigned to the district, giving a tuberculosis death-rate of 0.10 compared with 0.13 for England and Wales.

An analysis into the types of disease, sex and age groups of the new additions to the register and of those removed by reasons of death is to be found in Table VI.

In Table VII figures relating to the notification of tuberculosis and deaths from the disease over a number of years have been collected for purposes of comparison.

Taking the notification rate of new cases as an index of the incidence of the disease in the district, there would appear to be little improvement in the position. It should be remembered, however, that at the same time there has been improvement in the methods of diagnosis and that considerable efforts have been made to examine large numbers of people by means of mass radiography. It is certain that many cases have been diagnosed in the early stage of illness who would formerly have escaped recognition. Earlier diagnosis and improved methods of treatment have had a noticeable effect on the death rate, which fluctuates from year to year, but which when taken over a period shows a definite fall, interrupted only in the immediate post-war years.

B.C.G. Vaccination

As reported last year, the Ministry of Health were prepared to consider schemes, submitted by local Health Authorities, for the treatment with B.C.G. vaccine of schoolchildren between 14 and 15 years. The members of this age group were selected because of the inevitable increased rate of infection which they incur on leaving school to take up employment. The Surrey County Council submitted a scheme which received the approval of the Ministry, the operation of which was commenced during the year. Dr. T. H. Bingham, Divisional Medical Officer for the Southern Division of the County Health Service, has given the information that in schools in the Urban District, the parents of 149 children had been approached and that 90 (60.4%) had given their consent to the vaccination if preliminary testing showed it to be necessary. The preliminary test was positive in 31 children (37.8%), and 8 were absent. Of the 51 negative reactors 49 were vaccinated, and two were absent on the day of treatment. No doubt as this method of immunisation becomes more familiar to parents the percentage of consents will rise.

Dorking and District Tuberculosis Care Committee

The Committee operates not only in the Dorking Urban District but in the surrounding parts of the Dorking and Horley Rural District. The Officers of the Care Committee are:-

Chairman:	Mrs. E. A. Roberts
Hon. Secretary:	Mrs. E. W. Hounsham
Hon. Treasurer:	Mr. A. R. Priest

I am indebted to Mrs. E. W. Hounsham, the hon. secretary of the Committee for the following list which indicates some of the varied ways in which it has helped patients during the year:-

- Extra Nourishment
- Provision of Children's holidays
- Help in the repatriation of an alien patient
- Help towards house decorations
- Assistance towards the provision of individual wireless headphones in the tuberculosis wards at the Dorking General Hospital

It is evident that the Committee carries out its work with imagination and zeal, and is worthy of the utmost support.

TABLE I. COMPARATIVE BIRTH, DEATH AND MATERNAL MORTALITY RATES AND INCIDENCE RATES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES FOR THE YEARS 1953 - 1954.

	1954	1953
<u>Rates per 1,000 Population</u>		
<u>BIRTH</u>		
Live Births (Standardised)	14.6	13.6
Still Births	0.10	0.50
<u>DEATHS</u>		
All Causes (Standardised)	9.3	11.1
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Tuberculosis	0.10	0.30
Influenza	-	0.30
Smallpox	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-
Pneumonia	0.49	0.60
<u>NOTIFICATION (Corrected)</u>		
Typhoid Fever	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-
Scarlet Fever	1.48	0.35
Whooping Cough	3.90	1.34
Diphtheria	-	-
Erysipelas	-	0.10
Smallpox	-	-
Measles	-	7.11
Pneumonia	0.10	0.15
Poliomyelitis:-		
paralytic	0.05	-
non-paralytic	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-
Tuberculosis	0.59	0.75
<u>Rates per 1,000 Live Births</u>		
<u>INFANT MORTALITY</u>		
Under 1 year of age	36.4	7.9
Under 4 weeks of age	21.9	7.9
<u>Rates per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births</u>		
Still Births	7.2	38.0
Puerperal Pyrexia (Notification of)	29.0	95.1
Maternal Mortality	-	7.6

TABLE III

COMPARATIVE BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES 1931 - 1954

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population		Death Rate per 1,000 Population		Death Rate of children under 1 year of age, per 1,000 Live Births	
	England and Wales	Dorking Urban District	England and Wales	Dorking Urban District	England and Wales	Dorking Urban District
1931-1940	14.9	14.4	12.2	12.2	58	31.0
1941-1950	16.9	16.8	12.3	12.7	43	29.2 (9.8+)
1951	15.5	13.6 (13.6x)	12.5	12.8 (10.8x)	29.7	25.6 (7.0)
1952	15.3	14.1 (14.1)	11.3	12.4 (10.4)	27.6	21.2 (6.0)
1953	15.5	12.6 (13.6)	11.4	13.4 (11.1)	26.8	7.9 (2.0)
1954	15.2	13.5 (14.6)	11.3	11.2 (9.3)	25.5	36.4 (10.0)

x Bracketed figures represent number of deaths
+ " " " " standardised rates

TABLE III
CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE DORKING URBAN DISTRICT

	M	F	TOTAL
1. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	1	1	2
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic Disease	2	-	2
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	1	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	10	2	12
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	1	6	6
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	3	3
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	9	8	17
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1
16. Diabetes	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	13	31	44
18. Coronary disease, angina	14	12	26
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2
20. Other heart disease	9	25	34
21. Other circulatory disease	9	8	17
22. Influenza	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	2	3	5
24. Bronchitis	4	3	7
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	1	1	2
26. Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum	2	-	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	4	-	4
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	13	24
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	2
34. All other accidents	2	1	3
35. Suicide	3	-	3
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
	107	120	227

TABLE IV

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE BY AGE AND SEX WITH INCIDENCE RATES

	Total												Incidence Rate per 1,000 Population			
	65 years of over						45 to 64						15 to 44		1 to 14	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	3	3	4	7	6	10	5	20	4	1	4	1	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis:-																
paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
non-paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis:																
Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Incidence of Puerperal Pyrexia per 1,000 live and still births

TABLE V

INCIDENCE OF DIPHTHERIA IN THE DORKING URBAN DISTRICT

YEAR	Number of cases notified	Incidence Rate per 1,000 Population	Mortality Rate per
			1,000 Population
1924 - 1938	6.0	0.36	0.048
1939 - 1943	2.4	0.12	0.022
1944 - 1948	0.4	0.02	-
1949 - 1953	-	-	-
1954	-	-	-

TABLE VI

NOTIFICATION OF TUBERCULOSIS BY AGE AND SEX, AND DEATHS OF NOTIFIED PERSONS

Deaths		Secondary notifications of persons already notified in other areas now resident in Dorking Urban District											
		Pulmonary						Non-Pulmonary					
Primary notifications relating to persons resident in the Dorking Urban District		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year		1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	5	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	—	10	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	—	15	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	—	20	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	25	34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6	—	35	44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7	—	45	54	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8	—	55	64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9	—	65 & over	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—
		3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—

TABLE VII

TUBERCULOSIS INCIDENCE AND MORTALITY 1934-1954

Year	Formal and Posthumous Notifications Number	Annual Average Rate per 1,000 Population	Annual No. of Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 Population
1934 - 1938	12.2	0.73	6.4	0.41
1939 - 1943	16.4	0.83	6.6	0.33
1944 - 1948	16.4	0.85	8.4	0.43
1949 - 1953	15.4	0.77	5.4	0.27
1954	10.6	0.59	2.	0.10

URBAN DISTRICT OF DORKING

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1954

Sanitary Inspector's Office,
Council Offices,
Pippbrook,
Dorking.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Dorking Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady, and Gentlemen,

I submit herewith my Annual Report on the work of your Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1954.

For some years past it has been rather in the nature of variations on the same theme, summarising, in effect, what has already been reported to the Council's Public Health Committee.

While much of the work under review follows the same pattern, several important changes took place during the year and warrant special mention.

The one which caused the most difference in the routine of the Department was the re-opening of private slaughterhouses and the resumption of slaughtering upon the decontrol of meat supplies. The inspection of the carcases and offal of animals killed for human food is an essential public health duty, and takes up a considerable proportion of time, though quite a lot of it is after normal working hours.

At the end of August the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 came into operation, and with it the necessity for starting the survey required under Section 1 of the Act so that the Council would be in a position to submit to the Minister proposals to deal with unfit houses.

As a result of the confirmation of the 1951 Census figure, the Council automatically became the Shops Act Authority for the District, and the duties under the Act were allotted to the Sanitary Inspectors.

In view, however, of the Council's early appreciation of the increase in work which would result from new legislation and from meat inspection, and the consequent appointment of a Second Additional Sanitary Inspector, we were able to cope with the extra duties without undue detriment to other routine but essential matters, and, in addition, to investigate much more thoroughly than had been possible during recent years, the whole question of the use of the caravan sites in the Box Hill Road area.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, Dr. Ive, and my colleagues for their continued help, co-operation and support.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady, and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

D. ALLAN.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

INSPECTIONS AND REINSPECTIONS

The number of visits and inspections carried out during the year is summarised below:-

General Sanitation -

Water Supply	9
Drainage	300
Stables and Piggeries	16
Fried Fish Shops	6
Hotels and Public Houses	3
Tents, Vans and Sheds	1444
Factories with mechanical power	35
Factories without mechanical power	4
Workplaces	6
Outworkers	3
Bakehouses	30
Dustbins	69
Refuse Accumulations	3
Rats and Mice (Visits by Rodent Operator)	7611
Schools	3
Shops	90
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	758
Camp Sites	105
Wasps Nests	229
Swimming Pools	65
Unsuccessful Visits	264

Housing -

Under Public Health Acts:

No. of houses inspected	76
No. of re-inspections	213

Under Housing Acts:

No. of houses inspected	18
No. of re-inspections	15

Miscellaneous Housing Visits	397
------------------------------	-----

Infectious Diseases -

Inquiries in cases of infectious diseases	18
Visits re disinfection	5
Miscellaneous infectious disease visits	4

Meat and Food Inspection -

Inspection of Meat:

Visits to Slaughterhouses	366
Visits to Shops and Stalls	32
Visits to Other Premises	27

Visits to:

Butchers	80
Fishmongers and Poulterers	21
Grocers	145
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	16
Farms	12
Dairies and Milkshops	90
Ice-cream Premises	46
Food Preparing Premises	256
Market Stalls	35
Restaurants	64
Street Vendors and Hawkers' Carts	68
Canteens	19

Meat and Food Inspection - continued -

Visits in Connection with Sampling:

Milk - Bacteriological	133
Milk - Tuberle Bacilli	12
Water - Bacteriological	55
Ice-cream - Bacteriological	32
Miscellaneous Food Visits	19
Food Poisoning Enquiries	3
	<hr/>
	13,330
	<hr/>

NOTICES ISSUED AND ACTION TAKEN

The Notices served and the results of such action are given in their respective categories, but the total summary (excluding action taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938) is as follows:-

Preliminary -

Outstanding on 1st January, 1954	21
Issued during the year	95
Complied with during the year	51
Statutory Action necessary	22
Cancelled during the year	1
Outstanding on 31st December, 1954	42

Statutory -

Outstanding on 1st January, 1954	5
Issued during the year	29
Complied with during the year	24
Outstanding on 31st December, 1954	10

COMPLAINTS

Four hundred and ninety nine complaints were received from the public as follows:-

Dampness, defective roofs, etc.	33
Other defects - houses	44
Flooded cellars and basements	2
Drainage of houses	15
Drainage of other premises	2
Rats and Mice	187
Unsound food	65
Defective dustbins	18
Defective cesspools	5
Nuisance from smell	11
Ants	9
Beetles	1
Woodworm	3
Wasps nests	82
Miscellaneous insect pests	9
Miscellaneous	13
	<hr/>
	499
	<hr/>

DEFECTS FOUND AND REMEDIED, NUISANCES ABATED ETC.

The inspection of dwelling houses, etc., and consequent action resulted in the following conditions being found and remedied.

	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Rooms requiring plastering	19	13
Damp walls	24	17
Defective eavesgutters	37	24
Defective rainwater pipes	8	8
Defective roofs	30	16
Defective chimneysstacks	18	15

Defects found and remedied etc. - continued -

	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Defective brickwork	9	5
Defective drains	50	47
Defective yard surfaces and passages	2	-
Flooded cellars	1	1
Houses with inadequate forces of water	2	-
Defective W.C. cisterns	5	4
Defective water closets	5	4
Defective fireplaces and hearths	11	9
Defective kitcheners and ovens	2	2
Defective washboilers	2	2
Defective floors	16	12
Defective window frames	16	15
Defective sashcords and fasteners	25	23
Defective sinks	3	3
Defective wastepipes	2	1
Defective doors	4	3
Defective staintreads and risers	5	3
Defective dustbins	36	21
Defective cesspools	13	7
Overflowing cesspools	4	4
Accumulations of refuse	1	1
Defective cills and reveals	13	15
Other nuisances	1	-

NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH DURING THE YEAR
AND NOTICES OUTSTANDING AT 31st DECEMBER, 1954

(1) Housing Act, 1936 -

No. of Preliminary Notices outstanding			
at 1st January, 1954		1	
No. of Statutory Notices outstanding			
at 1st January, 1954		-	
No. of Preliminary Notices served			-
No. of Preliminary Notices complied with		1	
No. of Statutory Notices served			-
No. of Statutory Notices complied with			-
No. of Preliminary Notices outstanding			
at 31st December, 1954			-
No. of Statutory Notices outstanding			
at 31st December, 1954			-

(2) Public Health Act, 1936 -

	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Other Premises</u>	<u>Dust- bins</u>
No. of Preliminary Notices outstanding			
at 1st January, 1954	14	2	2
No. of Statutory Notices outstanding			
at 1st January, 1954	2	-	3
No. of Preliminary Notices served	71	2	17
No. of Preliminary Notices complied with	40	2	4
Statutory Action necessary	10	-	12
No. of Statutory Notices served	17	-	12
No. of Statutory Notices complied with	11	-	13
No. of Preliminary Notices cancelled	-	-	1
No. of Preliminary Notices outstanding			
at 31st December, 1954	35	2	2
No. of Statutory Notices outstanding			
at 31st December, 1954	8	-	2

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

(a) Slaughterhouses -

Circular MF 4/5, dated 24th February, 1954, from the Ministry of Food urged early measures to ensure that there was no interruption to meat supplies on decontrol in July, and was followed by Circular MF 5/54, dated 24th March, 1954, in which the Ministry set out general principles to be brought to the notice of local authorities and to be taken into account when consideration was being given to the licensing and provision of slaughterhouses for the period immediately following the decontrol of meat and livestock.

I reported to the April meeting of the Public Health Committee on the position locally, having regard to discussions which I had had with the local butchers and meat traders to ascertain the need for facilities - as suggested by the Ministry.

Three of the five privately owned slaughterhouses which were in use immediately before the war still existed, and the Committee decided to recommend the Council to inform the owners that in the event of applications for slaughterhouse licences being received, the Council would be prepared to grant licences provided that certain specified works were executed.

The work was done and the slaughterhouses were licensed in time for the changes which occurred when decontrol took place.

(b) Meat Inspection (at slaughterhouses) -

Three hundred and sixty-six visits were made to the slaughterhouses, ten of them being in connection with alterations and work in progress, two for the inspection of a calf and three pigs at the slaughterhouse which dealt with casualties and self-suppliers' pigs prior to decontrol, and the other three hundred and fifty-four for the purpose of meat inspection at the three slaughterhouses from the 5th July onwards - after decontrol.

In Circular MF 10/54, dated 29th June, 1954, the Ministry of Food brought to the attention of local authorities the urgent need to make arrangements to ensure that after decontrol there would be inspection of all meat intended for sale for human consumption.

During the previous years when slaughtering took place in the local slaughterhouses this had always been our aim, and upon the resumption of slaughtering, therefore, your inspectors carried out 100% inspection. Part of this meant some interference with other duties, but a considerable proportion of the time spent in meat inspection was, and still is, after normal working hours, due to the fact that much of the slaughtering takes place in the afternoon and evening after the animals have been brought from the markets. From the 5th July to 31st December your officers worked 211 hours extra to normal duty times on meat inspection in slaughterhouses.

Tables "A", "B" and "C", on the following pages, show the number of each class of animal killed, the number examined, the number and weights of condemnations (i) of entire carcases, (ii) of parts of carcases or organs, (a) for tuberculosis, and (b) for diseases other than tuberculosis, and the percentage of animals of each class affected. In each instance where *Cysticercus bovis* was found, and in the case of the calf with congenital tuberculosis, the name and address of the farmer entering the animal for sale was obtained and the information was forwarded to the Divisional Veterinary Officer for what was then the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

TABLE "A".

MEAT INSPECTIONCARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Bulls	Bullocks	Cows	Heifers	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Swine
No. killed	1	95	99	99	228	294	1174
No. inspected	1	95	99	99	228	294	1174
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS:</u>							
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	2	1	3	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	22	34	31	5	6	126
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	-	23.16	36.36	32.32	3.51	2.05	10.73
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:</u>							
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	10	16	6	-	-	27
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	-	10.53	17.17	6.06	0.44	-	2.30

Total weight of carcases and offals condemned was -

2 tons 8 cwts. 1 qutr. 5 lbs.

TABLE "B"

MEAT INSPECTION - REASONS FOR CONDEMNATION

Description		Number Slaughtered	Generalised	Locallised	Abscesses	Actinomycosis and bacillioses	Bruising and oedema	Other cysts and parasites	Infective infestations	Diseases of the liver	Immaturity	Osteomyelitis	Pericarditis	Peritonitis and pleurisy	Septicæmia	Miscellaneous diseases	TOTAL
Tuber-culsis	Other Diseases																
BOVINES (excluding calves)		294	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4
Whole carcasses and offal			-	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	10
Part carcasses			-	15	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	20
Heads and tongues			-	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Hearts			-	24	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	30
Lungs			-	4	-	12	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84	84
Livers and part livers			-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5
Mesentery and Intestines			-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
CALVES		228	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Whole carcasses and offal			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Part carcasses			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Livers			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Kidneys			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
SHEEP		294	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6
Lungs			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	11
Livers			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
PIGS		1174	2	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38	38
Part carcasses			-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	13
Heads and tongues			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	32
Hearts			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	45	45
Lungs			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	50
Livers and part livers			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	14
Mesentery and Intestines			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Kidneys			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
TOTAL:-		1990	2	90	21	3	15	10	40	79	3	1	27	61	1	15	368

TABLE "C".

WEIGHTS OF CARCASSES AND ORGANS FOUND TO BE UNFIT FOR HUMAN FOOD

	Whole Carcase and Offal	Part Carcase	Head and Tongue	Heart	Lungs	Liver	Mesentery	Kidneys	TOTALS
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
(a) TUBERCULOSIS:									
Bovines	420	374	389	10	355	61	43	-	1652
Pigs	-	150	284	-	12½	43½	1 4½	-	504½
(b) OTHER DISEASES:									
Bovines	1630	102	120	10	55	787	-	½	270 4½
Pigs	-	325 ¾	-	31	72	99	7½	1 ¾	537
Sheep	-	-	-	-	5	6	-	-	11
(c) TOTAL WEIGHTS - ALL DISEASES:									
Bovines	2050	476	509	20	410	848	43	½	4356 ½
Pigs	-	475 ¾	284	31	84½	142½	22	1 ¾	1041 ½
Sheep	-	-	-	-	5	6	-	-	11
TOTALS:-	2050	951 ¾	793	51	499½	996 ½	65	2 ¼	5409

(c) Meat (inspected in shops) and Other Foods -

Examination revealed that the following foodstuffs were unfit for human consumption, and were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed.

	No.	Tins	Bottles and Jars	Weight				
				Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Beef: English	-	-	-	-	3	2	9	-
Beef: Imported	-	-	-	-	5	-	5	8
Pork: English	-	-	-	-	1	-	20	8
Pork: Imported	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	-
Offal: English	-	-	-	-	1	1	25	4
Offal: Imported	-	-	-	-	3	-	24	-
Mutton and Lamb	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-
Fish	-	39	-	-	2	2	3	8
Bacon and Ham	-	-	-	-	9	-	25	8
Cheese	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	14
Fats	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	8
Tinned hams	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	9
Canned meat	-	-	-	-	6	1	20	12
Biscuits	-	-	-	-	-	1	26	-
Sausages	-	-	-	-	-	2	17	-
Fruit	-	756	1	-	-	3	13	8
Sweets	-	-	-	-	1	2	21	-
Milk	-	392	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vegetables	-	762	-	-	-	-	-	-
Soup	-	187	-	-	-	-	-	-
Preserves	-	1	11	-	-	-	-	-
Savouries	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-
Pickles & Sauces	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-
Cream	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eggs	257	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:-	257	2154	45	1	18	1	16	7

In addition to the foregoing, action was taken regarding 25 bales containing 98 sides of bacon which appeared to have been contaminated during transport.

Specimens of the bacon and of the wrapping material were submitted to the Public Analyst, who reported that the contaminant was a naphthalene-like substance, the vapour of which had penetrated through the rind a little way. Consumption of the bacon would not have been injurious but would almost certainly have given rise to complaints of smell or unpalatability.

The Public Analyst advised trimming to a depth of $\frac{1}{4}$ ". In view of the large number of sides affected, arrangements were made through the supplier and the Ministry of Food Bacon Agent for the affected sides to be taken back and re-issued to a manufacturer who would be required to trim before use; while a fresh consignment was sent to the Dorking firm.

(d) Milk -

(i) Samples:

During the year 172 samples of milk retailed in the Urban District were taken by the Sanitary Inspectors, and the summary of results is given below:-

Pasteurised Milk

No. of samples	Methylene Blue Reductase Test		Phosphatase Test	
	Satisfactory:	Unsatisfactory:	Satis:	Unsatis:
131	128	3	130	1

Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk

No. of samples	Methylene Blue Reductase Test		Phosphatase Test	
	Satisfactory:	Unsatisfactory:	Satis:	Unsatis:
27	27	-	27	-

As mentioned in last year's Report unsatisfactory reports on the Methylene Blue Reductase Test could be attributed to any one of several factors; such as the sample being slightly stale when taken, that the bottle had been unduly exposed to the sun's heat during delivery, that the bottle had not been properly cleansed, and so on.

The failure on the Phosphatase Test occurred in a sample taken from a local firm. Investigations were made into the possible cause. The temperature chart from the automatic recording device showed no deviation below the necessary treatment temperature on the day in question, and as the plant and the recording apparatus had been checked by the manufacturers within the past three weeks there seemed to be no explanation. Eventually, however, it was found that a slight crack had developed in one of the stainless steel pipes at the top of the plant and this might have resulted in a very small amount of inadequately heated milk dripping into the flow of treated milk.

Biological Test for Tuberculosis

Eight samples of raw undesigned milk and six of Tuberculin Tested milk were submitted for guinea-pig inoculation. The results in all cases were negative.

(ii) Bacteriological Examination of Milk Containers:

(a) Bottles -

As a check on the bottle washing plant at the pasteurising establishment in the district one batch of six bottles was submitted to the laboratory for bacteriological examination.

The batch had an average mean count of 4 - up to 600 being allowed for the "satisfactory" standard.

(b) Churns -

The laboratory standard for the provisional classification of the cleanliness of empty milk churns is as follows:-

Colony Count per churn of:-

Not more than 50,000 ... Satisfactory.

More than 50,000 but

less than 250,000

...

Fairly satisfactory.

250,000 and over

...

Unsatisfactory.

(b) Churns - continued -

Reports were received on 12 samples taken at the end of March, when churns were being cleansed by hand, using detergent, hypochlorite steriliser, and a steam jet. One was satisfactory, seven fairly satisfactory, and four unsatisfactory.

Early in April a mechanised washer and steriliser was purchased and put into service. The results on four samples taken on the 22nd April were:-

<u>Churn No:</u>	<u>Colony Count:</u>
1	less than 400
2	400
3	1,600
4	800

Four more on the 28th April were:-

1	4,600
2	1,600
3	less than 1,000
4	less than 1,000

These eight results were very good.

(iii) Milk sold under Special Designations:

The following licences for the sale of designated milks, granted by the Dorking Urban District Council, were in operation during the year:-

(a) Milk (Special Designation)(Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1954

Dealer's licence to sell "Tuberculin Tested" milk	6
Supplementary licence to sell "Tuberculin Tested" milk	2

(b) Milk (Special Designation)(Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1953

Dealer's licence to sell "Pasteurised" milk	5
Dealer's licence to sell "Sterilised" milk	11
Supplementary licence to sell "Pasteurised" milk	2
Supplementary licence to sell "Sterilised" milk	2

(e) Cream -

As the result of communications from a Metropolitan Borough regarding the results of bacteriological examination of cream supplied to a dairy in that district by one in Dorking, several samples were taken at the latter firm's premises - some at the time of separation, others immediately before despatch to London by rail in the early morning.

The results on the first series of ten samples differed considerably - the colony count varying from less than 1,000 per ml. in 4 cases to more than 100,000,000 per ml. in one case. Faecal coli were found in the latter sample.

No bacteriological standards exist for cream, which, by its nature, is an admirable medium for the multiplication of bacteria (by no means all of which, however, are necessarily harmful).

As the result of certain experiments and suggestions the local firm then established a special cream room for dealing with the separation of the cream from the milk, its rapid cooling, and its refrigeration overnight.

Six samples taken to check the efficiency of the new arrangements gave consistently good results with counts ranging from 2,000 to 10,000 per ml. A seventh sample taken at the same time as some of the others, but kept in my office at shade temperature for 28 hours longer before being submitted for examination, gave ample evidence of how the organisms multiply, for the count in that case was 10,000,000 per ml.

(f) Ice-cream -

Thirty-one samples of ice-cream and two ice-lollies were submitted for bacteriological examination.

The results may be summarised as follows:-

	No. Taken	Coliforms		Faecal Coli		Provisional Grade
		Pres:	Abs:	Pres:	Abs:	
Unopened tub	2	-	2	-	2	1 - I 1 - III
From opened can	7	1	6	-	7	5 - I 2 - II
Wrapped blocks	23	3	20	-	23	16 - I 6 - II 1 - IV
Ice-lollies	2	-	2	-	2	2 - I

The unsatisfactory Grade III and IV samples were produced out of the district and distributed through a wholesaler in the Dorking area.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector of the district concerned was notified. Subsequent samples were satisfactory.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

As a consequence of the re-opening of slaughterhouses, applications for licences to slaughter animals were received from, and granted to, ten persons up to the end of the year.



FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

1. The list of food premises, which shows no changes from last year, is analysed under trade headings and shows classes of food sold. In some cases, one business may be allocated under two headings:-

Bacon smoking factory	1
Bakehouses	11
Butchers	16
Catering Establishments	50
Confectioners (cakes, pastries, etc.)	18
Crumpet Factory	1
Fishmongers and Fish Fryers	9
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	20
Mineral Waters	1
Premises registered for the manufacture of sausages, etc.	17
Retail Grocers, etc.	48
Wholesale Greengrocers	1
Wholesale Grocers	1
Vegetarian Stores	1

2. PREMISES IN RESPECT OF WHICH NOTICES OF CONTRAVENTION WERE SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH UNDER SECTION 13 OF THE ACT

Informal Notices of Contravention -

	Brought Forward	Served	Complied With	Outstanding at 31.12.54.
Bakehouses	1	Nil	1	Nil
Butchers	Nil	2	1	1
Confectioners	1	Nil	1	Nil
Fruiterers & Greengrocers	Nil	1	1	Nil
Grocers	2	1	1	2
Restaurant Kitchens	3	2	4	1

CONDITIONS FOUND TO REQUIRE SERVICE OF NOTICES AND THE RESULTS OF SUCH ACTION UNDER SECTION 13 OF THE ACT

	Brought Forward	Found	Remedied	Outstanding at 31.12.54.
Sanitary conveniences and ashbins in or communicating with room.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Walls, ceilings, floors, windows and doors not kept in proper state of repair.	1	5	5	1
Redecoration required.	6	7	8	5
Floors inadequately cleansed.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tables, benches, etc., kept in dirty condition.	Nil	3	2	1
Utensils kept in dirty condition.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Hot and cold water supply required.	1	Nil	1	Nil
Lack of towels.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Insufficient washbasins.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Failure to prevent risk of contamination.	Nil	2	2	Nil

3. Premises Registered under Section 14:

Registered for manufacture of sausages	17
Registered for manufacture of pressed, pickled, potted or preserved food	14
Registered for the sale of ice-cream	79
Registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream	3
Registered for storage, manufacture and sale of ice-cream	4

None of the four registered for storage, manufacture, and sale actually carried out manufacture, as all continued to buy prepacked brands.

4. Registered under Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 to 1954:

The entries on the register at the end of the year may be summarised as follows:-

Number of Dairies	5
Number of Distributors with premises within the Urban District	16
Number of Distributors whose premises are outside the District	4

5. Food Hygiene:

In this connection there is little to add to the remarks which I made last year.

This is largely due to the delay in the issue of Regulations and Codes of Practice which have been under consideration by the Ministry and various interested trades and associations, for it seemed inadvisable to require much in the way of alterations if still further work would be required within a short time.

During reconstruction or adaptation of premises for food preparation we took the opportunity to advise the highest possible standard, pointing out that while some work was being done, additional improvements could be carried out more reasonably than at some later date, both from the point of view of cost and also of convenience.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

During the year 90 visits were made. The Register of Shops totals 346 premises (including licensed premises) as set out below. Each of these is classified under the main heading of goods sold:

Antiques	6
Baby Wear	4
Bread and Cakes	8
Boots and Shoes (Sales)	10
Butchers	15
Car Sales and Accessories	2
Chemists	11
China and Glass	2
Coal Order Office	2
Corn and Seed	2
Cycle Repairs	2
Decorators' Sundries	2
Drapers and Haberdashers	7
Electrical, Radio and Television	6
Fancy Goods	2
Fishmongers and Fish Fryers	9
Florists	3
Furnishers	6
Furriers	1
General Stores	15

c/f: 115

Shops Act, 1950 - continued -

	b/f: 115
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	14
Grocers	38
Hairdressers	14
Heating and Sanitary Engineers	1
Ironmongers and Hardware	8
Jewellers	4
Leather Goods	1
Licensed Premises	46
Milk Shops	1
Music Shops	2
Newsagents and Stationers	12
Opticians	4
Outfitters	21
Pet Food Shops	1
Pet Shops	1
Photographic	4
Restaurants, Cafes, and Snack Bars	33
Sewing Machines	1
Sports Goods, Toys, Cycles and Prams	4
Tobacco and Confectionery	17
Vegetarian Stores	1
Wool Shops	2
Wholesale Greengrocers	1
	<hr/>
	346
	<hr/>

In addition, the following premises are generally regarded by the public as shops but have already been included in the more accurate classification of factories (power or non-power) or workplaces:-

Boots and Shoes (Repairs)	12
Dyers and Cleaners	8

The position regarding service of Notices is as follows:-

No. of Preliminary Notices outstanding at 1st January, 1954	2
No. of Preliminary Notices served	2
No. of Preliminary Notices complied with	3
No. of Preliminary Notices outstanding at 31st December, 1954	1
No. of Statutory Notices served	Nil
No. of Statutory Notices complied with	Nil

CAMP SITES AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Although there is one licensed site at Brockham, and a few individual caravans in other parts of the district, the above heading almost invariably brings to the mind of any officer of this Council that part of Box Hill Road, and the by-roads leading therefrom, lying between the boundary of the National Trust property - Box Hill proper - and the Urban District boundary on the east side of the Hand-in-Hand.

In past years I have written much about the camp sites in this particular area. Inspections have been made, surveys carried out - usually for some specific information - but since 1946 there had been no really comprehensive survey to produce a complete appreciation of the situation until late 1954 and the first month or two of 1955.

From casual visits and inspections earlier in 1954 it had appeared that on some sites there was an influx of caravans, some recreational, some residential. In addition, there were many instances of an odd van or two being stationed in the gardens of permanent structures. The survey revealed the full picture.

Camp Sites and Moveable Dwellings - continued -

To begin with, the extent of the Council's problem may be summarised in the following figures:-

	<u>1933</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1954/5 (Survey Nov. 54 to March 55.)</u>
Caravans.	175	277	750
Huts within sites.	56	137	95
<u>Families in permanent residence -</u>			
In caravans.	7	11	190
In huts.	2	25 (Approx.)	18
.....			
No. of sites with more than 100 vans			2
" " " "	" " " "	51 to 100	5
" " " "	" " " "	21 to 50	5
" " " "	" " " "	11 to 20	1
" " " "	" " " "	5 to 11	2
" " " "	less than	5	23
.....			

Accurate details are not available but from information gathered at various times it would appear that over 90% of the permanently occupied vans are either already owned, or are being purchased on the hire purchase method, by their occupants.

The main difficulty in the control of the use of the sites where there are permanent residents is on the grounds of hardship to families who would otherwise be homeless. This has tended to soften the approach which should have been made to the problem, but as it has been noted during the past two or three years that some 20 to 30 per cent of the permanent residents change each year, definite steps are now being taken to check the entry of new ones.

The detailed inspections and enquiries undertaken by the Sanitary Inspectors revealed that on several of the sites in respect of which licences had been issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, there were instances of contraventions of licence conditions - particularly in regard to density of caravans per acre. In addition it was found that the number of permanently occupied vans had increased during the year.

As a result of my report to the Public Health Committee on the information gained by these inspections, it was decided to re-issue licences, in those cases where contraventions had been found, only for the period 1st January to 30th June, 1955. With each licence went a letter pointing out the contraventions, and asking for their remedy, or the submission of proposals to ensure their remedy, by the 31st May, 1955. In all these cases, it was stressed that the Council would recognise the use of the site only for recreational caravanning.

This, of course, means the displacement of many families at present in permanent residence, and as it is recognised that no violent action can be taken without throwing an impossible burden on the Council's normal housing programme it is proposed that it shall be achieved by gradual means, as follows:-

- (a) As and when any permanently occupied caravan leaves a site, its place shall not be refilled.
- (b) As and when any family permanently occupying and renting a caravan obtains accommodation elsewhere, the caravan shall not be relet and the owner shall be asked to remove same.

Camp Sites and Moveable Dwellings - continued -

(c) To ensure reduction to the permitted number of caravans (16 per acre) the site owner shall give three months' notice to the owners of a sufficient proportion of the caravans used for recreational purposes.

Provided that

(d) Once the permitted number of caravans (including residential and recreational) has been reached, it will be in order to maintain this figure by the acceptance of a caravan used for recreational purposes to replace one used for residential purposes.

The site licensees affected have been interviewed one by one, and it has been made clear to them that these measures must be adopted, and that any required improvements to sanitary facilities must be carried out within a reasonable time.

It appears that this approach is having some result, and the general effect should be apparent by the end of 1955.

The survey showed that a much closer watch will have to be kept on the smaller pieces of land where one or two or more caravans (usually not exceeding four) may be parked. Sometimes these are behind houses and difficult to see particularly during the summer months when they are well protected by the foliage of trees and shrubs.

Added to this, there is the fact that some of the single caravans have been stationed there originally only for storage, or perhaps as an extra bedroom for the household living in a house. Then the time comes when we find the caravan has been let as a residence for a family.

The Local Planning Authority is taking enforcement action for the removal of the caravans in those cases where the necessary evidence as to dates can be substantiated.

In another case, observations were made on three caravans for a period of 42 consecutive days to obtain evidence for a prosecution under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the use of land without a licence.

Much has been said, on many different occasions, about the strength or weakness of Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, as a means of controlling moveable dwellings. In general, the experience in this district has been that when dealing with site owners who wish to conform to the Council's requirements, the section has been easy to operate. Where the awkward or deliberately ignorant owner is concerned, it is difficult.

I would suggest that perhaps better results could be achieved by adopting methods used in other spheres of local government legislation. Instead of using licensing as a measure of control, require each site to be registered and subject to a set of regulations. The regulations could then be uniform throughout the country. These could be of varying degrees according to the size of the site. Failure to comply with the regulations would involve removal from the register, if necessary after recourse to the Court, with automatic penalties for continuing to operate after such removal. A lot of the difficult and lengthy process of proof of the use of land could then be eliminated.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.

The above Act came into operation on the 30th August, 1954. Part I of the Act is largely concerned with the amendment and strengthening of the 1936 Act so as to simplify and accelerate action under Parts II and III of that Act.

Under Section 1 every local authority is required to submit to the Minister, within one year after the commencement of this Act, proposals for dealing with houses which appear to the authority to be unfit for human habitation, and with any other houses within the district which are or in the opinion of the authority ought to be included in clearance areas.

This requirement involves the inspection, to some degree though not necessarily too detailed, of a considerable proportion of the dwelling houses in the area - mainly those generally termed "cottage property". The work was well in hand at the end of the year with a view to the submission of a report for the consideration of the Public Health Committee.

Part II of the 1954 Act, which permits, subject to certain conditions of repair, an increase of rent in respect of a dwelling house let under a controlled tenancy or occupied by a statutory tenant, was expected to result in a large number of applications from tenants for certificates that the conditions justifying an increase of rent had not been fulfilled.

Whether, in this district, landlords considered that the permitted increase did not make it worth while to carry out the work which would be entailed to bring older properties into the necessary condition of good repair; whether increases were sought only in the case of more modern rented properties where the conditions were easily fulfilled; or whether a great deal of repair work was in fact carried out and we heard nothing of it, I would hesitate to say. The fact remains that up to the end of the year no application for a certificate of disrepair had been received.

Sections 16 and 37 of the Act are intended to ease the position with regard to Improvement Grants so as to encourage more owners to modernise structurally sound houses, which, however, without improvement and the provision of modern amenities might easily add to the number of rapidly deteriorating sub-standard properties. It is interesting to note that there has been a slow but steady stream both of preliminary enquiries and of formal applications for Improvement Grants since increased national publicity was given to this matter in 1954.

The Council's Engineer and Surveyor and the Senior Sanitary Inspector report jointly on those applications, after inspection of the properties in question.

PEST CONTROL

1. RATS AND MICE -

In view of the change in the period of annual return required by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, 1st April to 31st March, instead of 1st January to 31st December, as I mentioned in last year's Report, our system of recording has been amended to save duplication and overlapping of records.

The summary of the work for the twelve months 1st April 1954 to 31st March, 1955, as returned to the Ministry, is as follows:-

Rats and Mice - continued -

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Non-Agricultural				(5) Agri- cult- ural.
	(1) Local Auth- ority	(2) Dwelling Houses	(3) All Others (including Business Premises)	(4) TOTAL of Cols. 1, 2, & 3.	
1. Number of properties in L.A.'s. District	10	5702	430	6142	30
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of: (a) Notification	2	110	29	141	2
(b) Survey under the Act	3	973	128	1104	6
(c) Otherwise	5	714	226	945	22
3. Total inspections - including re-inspections	37	2346	1468	3851	36
4. Number of properties inspected (in Sect.2.) found to be infested by: (a) Rats { Major Minor	-	1	-	1	-
(b) Mice { Major Minor	5	329	10	344	2
-	-	-	-	-	-
-	59	25	84	-	-
5. Number of infested properties (in Sect.4.) treated by L.A.	5	389	35	429	2
6. Total treatments carried out (including re-treatments)	7	437	66	510	3
7. Number of Notices served under Section 4 of the Act: (a) Treatment	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Structural Works	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following Notice under Section 4 of the Act	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
9. Legal Proceedings	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
10. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	-	77	-	77	-

Rats and Mice - continued -

In addition, we have an arrangement for regular inspection and treatment when necessary at the following premises, a charge being made in the case of business and industrial firms and Surrey County Council establishments:-

	<u>Number</u>
Provender and Seed Mills and Stores	3
Grocery and Provision Merchants	3
Bakehouses	1
Sausage Factory	1
Hotels	1
School Canteens	6
Office Canteens	1
General Hospital	1
Sewage Works	2
Refuse Tips	2
Council Depot	1

Sewers:

Maintenance treatment on infested sections of sewers was carried out in October. In September we did the Annual 10% Test of sewer manholes in all sections of the district except where infestations were known to exist, 69 manholes being test-baited. A take was recorded at 1 manhole.

This was followed up by prebaiting and poison treatment on sections previously known to be infested, plus that revealed by the Test. 44 manholes were prebaited, and 16 takes were recorded, so poison bait was laid at these 16 manholes. Inspection of the latter next day showed that poisoned bait had been taken at all of them.

2. INSECT PESTS -

(a) Bed-bugs and Fleas:

No cases of infestations requiring treatment were found or reported during the year.

(b) Common and German Cockroaches, and other Beetles:

Infestations dealt with during the year occurred in one restaurant kitchen, a bakehouse, a school canteen kitchen, and the Dorking General Hospital. In the latter case, which continued to be inspected and treated under an annual contract, 46 visits were made, during which the treatments and re-treatments of rooms numbered 200 - a satisfactory reduction from last year's figure of 441.

(c) Red Ants (Pharaoh's Ant):

Slight re-infestation occurred and required periodic re-treatment at the private nursing-home and office canteen to which reference was made last year.

(d) Garden Ants:

During the contract treatment at the Dorking General Hospital 25 rooms were treated. In addition, these insect pests created such a nuisance as to require treatment at two school canteens, a school domestic science block, an office canteen, the British Restaurant, two restaurant kitchens, and five private houses.

(e) Mosquitoes:

Two ponds and three surface water gullies were sprayed with larvicide to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes.

(f) Wasps:

One hundred and forty-six wasps' nests were dealt with during the year. As stated in previous years the practice is that in every case where it is at all possible to remove and destroy the nest after treatment this is done. Where removal is not possible revisits are made and re-treatments carried out until it is certain that the nests are inactive.

(g) Flies:

By agreement with the Education Authority four school canteens and the Central Kitchen, which prepares school meals for distribution to those schools which have no canteen kitchen of their own, were sprayed with insecticide as a measure of fly prevention.

Two flats, four private houses, and a church were also sprayed to clear heavy infestations.

(h) Moths:

Treatment was carried out at two Council houses which were badly infested.

(i) Furniture Beetle:

Affected woodwork and furniture were treated in four Council houses and four private houses. Advice was given in other cases.

(j) Carpet Beetle:

One room was treated at the Dorking General Hospital.

(k) Golden Spider Beetles:

Two large private houses (converted by division of one house) were treated for a severe infestation of these insects (sometimes known as Brass Beetles). Although various types of insecticide - both in liquid and powder form - were effective in destroying the adult insects which appeared in the rooms of the houses, the real source of the trouble was not eliminated until the occupiers engaged a contractor to take up the bedroom floors and remove the sub-floor packing which consisted of chaff and had provided excellent harbourage and food for the pests.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During the year eighteen visits of enquiry were carried out in respect of cases of infectious diseases occurring in the District. In addition, four visits were made for miscellaneous enquiries, and five in connection with disinfection.

One house was disinfected after the removal of a T.B. case.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Two licences were issued during the year in respect of the sale of pet animals. Inspection revealed that conditions were satisfactory.

